News-Pages of the GSWC

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Inc. 02 Dec 2021
Addendum to Vol. 45 #1

GSWC Note:
This addendum will be attached to News-Pages Vol. 45#1 in the News-Pages Archive on the GSWC website.

Report on Recent Meetings:
October 24, 2021: "Hidden Gems: Materials in Digital Libraries for Family History" presented by D. Joshua Taylor. Mr. Taylor stated that digital libraries are ones where standard documents can be in digital content, standard PDF or in another format. They can provide you with a wealth of information in one place without having to travel.

Mr. Taylor provided general techniques to find digital collections in public, university, and private libraries. The following key points provide examples of the information he discussed:

Why digital libraries:
Expanded access:
- larger audiences
- ability to browse
- includes indexing or full text

Preservation:
- less handling
- less damage more loss prevention

Start your search in public libraries where your ancestors lived. Look for databases and digitalized correspondence. Check for collections on local histories, correspondence, and oral histories.

He discussed suggestions on how to browse and explore a digital collection. It is all about access. He also gave a few examples of what is available at different libraries such as the Digital Public Library of America and the Library of Congress.

Reported by Janet Gilkey

Class: "Preparing to Tell Your Family Story: Capturing and Analyzing Documented Facts" presented by GSWC member Sharon Sachs. The goal of her presentation was to help people tell their own story using spreadsheets and research logs.

She suggested identifying a problem to solve, and then what data is needed. Her example was with her own family, to discover how the extended family was related, and how close they lived.

She considered extended family to be grandparents, aunts, uncles who were in close contact. Her focus was on the two wives of Elard Kulenkamp who both had the same first name, Catharina Reyer and Katherina Sachs. Adam Sachs, Katherina Sachs's brother, married Charlotte Kulenkamp, further complicating being able to describe relationships. She looked at who lived close by—using photographs, oral history, and letters—then set up her spreadsheet to sum up these details. She color-coded families in the spreadsheet for easy identification.

Organization is important. Stories are remembered much longer than facts. She likes to call it breathing life into dead people.

Reported by Marcia McCrary

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GSWC Information:
Nancy Krohn's Memorial Service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 18, 2021, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

From GSWC President Nancy Howard:
We are still seeking a **Librarian**, in anticipation of our GSWC Library re-opening in January (no date yet). This is an important role, but not overwhelming. Please think about volunteering your time or suggesting someone who might help in this way.

While our GSWC Library (at the Family History Center in Saline) has been closed during COVID, a backlog of donated books (18 boxes!) has accumulated. Thanks to Rob and Cyndy Steward for storing them and to Ed Redmer, Marcia McCrary and Tim Salatin for working together to inventory the books. This will expedite the process of adding items to our library and developing a list of items that can be sold, donated or otherwise disposed of.

News-Pages Editors:
Marcia McCrary marciamccr@aol.com
Judi Bornemeier bornannarbor@sbcglobal.net
Janet Gilkey (Meeting Lecture Reporter)